BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, May 15, 2003

The regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, May 15, 2003, at 3:00 p.m., at Police Headquarters, 1300 Beaubien – Rm. 328-A, Detroit, MI 48226.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Megan Norris
Willie E. Hampton
Arthur Blackwell, II
Erminia Ramirez
Edgar L. Vann, Jr. (ABS)

Department Personnel Present

Chief Jerry A. Oliver, Sr. AC Walter E. Shoulders AC Timothy Black

DC Brenda Goss-Andrews

DC Bryan Turnbull DC Ronald Haddad DC Pamela Evans Insp. Lance Williams Insp. Jamie Fields

Lt. Steve Carlin Lt. Fred Saffold

Sgt. Kenny Williams Sgt. Norma Kendrick Sgt. Shirley Berger Sgt. Debbie Jackson

PO Tish Ross

PO Reggie Crawford
PO Eric Jarmon
PO Alecia Smith
PO Irvette Reed

3rd DC Tara Dunlap

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supv. Investigator (ABS) Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator E. Lynise Bryant-Weekes, Personnel Director

RECORDERS

OTHERS PRESENT

Jerome Adams Ms. Walters Felicia Hardaway Ron Scott

Kellie Williams Mike Payne, WWJ 950 DPOA Atty. Thomas Zulch

Channel 4, WDIV Channel 7, WXYZ Henry Dudzinski

Diane Bukowski, Michigan Citizen Ben Schmitt, Detroit Free Press

Phillip Cracchiolo

Rick Jones Rita Ross Bernice Smith

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Norris called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 3:20 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Norris made the motion to approve the

Minutes of Thursday, May 8, 2003.

SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chairperson Norris stated Commissioners you have been giving the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Office of the Chief Investigator to review and vote on today. Personally, I am not prepared to do that today. I would like to defer that until our next meeting.

4. SECRETARY REPORT – EX. DIR. GOSS

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

For the Week Ending: May 15, 2003

	This Week	Year to Date
Weekly Count of Complaints:	15	378
Weekly Count of Allegations:	23	680
Arrest	0	26
Demeanor	10	227
Entry	0	7
Force	1	59
Harassment	3	30
Procedure	8	213
Property	0	37
Search	1	26
Service	0	53

PENDING CASES

As of May 15, 2003, the Office of the Chief Investigator has a total of **378** pending cases, which include **126** cases with an age of 0-45 days, **49** cases with an age of 46-60 days, **100** cases with an age of 61-90 days, **95** cases with an age of 91-120 days, and **8** cases with an age of 121 days – 6 months.

<u>2002</u>

During the past week: 15 Year to Date: 384

5. CHIEF'S REPORT

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT MIND'N OUR BUSINESS

Board of Police Commissioners

The Detroit Police Department's mission is building a safer Detroit through community partnerships. Therefore, the following enforcement actions were conducted during the week of May 7th-13th, 2003:

ORGANIZED CRIME AND GANG DIVISION

The Conspiracy Intelligence, South-East, North-West and Vice Sections conducted eleven enforcement actions that resulted in (2) misdemeanor and (7) felony arrests. There were also (12) miscellaneous ordinances issued. These enforcement actions resulted in the confiscation of 224.6 grams of cocaine, 35.5 grams of heroin and 24,896 grams of marijuana with a total street value of \$253,324.00. \$30,823.00 in U.S. currency, 10 vehicles and 4 handguns were confiscated from these enforcement actions.

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

On May 12, 2003, the Special Response Team (S.R.T.) assisted the United States (U.S.) Customs Inspectors at the Detroit Marine Terminal on the Detroit River. Under the authority of U.S. Customs, S.R.T. conducted an administrative search onboard the Norwegian freighter, "The Teaman Sea." This random inspection coincides with the drug interdiction and Homeland Security measures by the Treasury Department.

THIRTEENTH PRECINCT

On May 11, 2003, officers of the Thirteenth Precinct responded to a police run in the 27th Block of E. Willis on a, "Breaking and Entering of a Motor Vehicle" (description was given of the perpetrator). Upon arrival on the location, the officers observed a subject fit the description of the perpetrator. Further investigation revealed it was the perpetrator because the witness pointed him out. The subject was arrested and conveyed to the precinct without incident.

Chief of Police Jerry A. Oliver, Sr.

6. PRESENTATION – PROPERTY ROOM REORGANIZATION

DC Brenda Goss Andrews from Management Services Bureau introduced Lt. Steven Carlin from the Property Control Unit.

Lt. Steven Carlin gave the following PowerPoint presentation:

(See Attached)

Chairperson Norris stated I know we did the cash audit and drug audit. What kind of regular audit system, if any, do we have in place now?

Lt. Carlin stated the Auditor General periodically audit the vault. Also the Professional Accountability Bureau is establishing a procedure to audit the vault on a regular basis.

Chairperson Norris stated the reason why I am asking is because when I went to Phoenix with the Chief I toured the Phoenix Police Department property room which was an incredible place and I was surprised that they did not have any cameras. The commander said that we don't have cameras because we have so many audits that everybody knows that if they do anything they will get caught. I asked him what did he mean and he told me that outside the drug, gun and money areas, just in the regular areas we have scheduled regular audits that the sergeants and the lieutenants carry out. In the drug and money areas they have random audits daily. The Commander was required to do at least one random audit a month and people under him had to their own random audits. I think it is best to look at day-to-day knowledge of what is going on.

Comm. Ramirez asked is there a manual in place for the supervisors that are in charge as far as overwriting or looking into making sure that all operations are in tact. Is there anything in the Manual in regards to security data?

Lt. Carlin stated we have a standard operating procedure at the Property Control desk that was prepared. In front of you is a copy of the master plan that was prepared this year that identifies a lot of changes that have been made in the property Control Unit in regards to cash controls. Everything that comes into the Property Control Unit that has value such as money, jewelry and etc. Those items are identified by the officer and counted in front of the person that is bringing it in. The supervisor who is at the desk and who is witnessing the count then also counts it. Both the officer and the supervisor also initial it and the only one that has access to the vault is the supervisor. The cash vault and the narcotics vault is being continuously monitored and recorded, so if it was an incident we could go back at the period of time that this incident occurred and actually pull out the tape of the transaction.

Comm. Ramirez asked are you saying that at the end of the day there is a cash out?

Lt. Carlin stated no. When I had original arrived at the Property Control Unit we had over 13,000 evidence tags contained in the vault, we are down to below 2,000 tags at this time. It would be extremely labor intensive to open up each envelope and recount it, it would take over a day to do it, I only I have two supervisors on my staff.

Vice Chairperson Hampton asked as it relates to then and now, is everything up to date?

Lt. Carlin asked with regards to the money?

Vice Chairperson Hampton stated with regards to the money and other items as well.

Lt. Carlin stated with regard to the money a complete audit was done and it was determined that there were items that were not found in the vault. In subsequent to that we have done a major amount of research on paper receipts for the past 20 years and nearly two-thirds of those items had been resolved. The other third where there is no actual paper trail. We are going to segregate into another portion of the property computer and as we have the manpower and the time available, we will continue to research those and get a disposition on each item.

Vice Chairperson Hampton asked are the key codes and the alarm code changes are personalized?

Lt. Carlin stated each supervisor has a separate alarm code.

Vice Chairperson Hampton asked what about regular staff?

Lt. Carlin stated regular staff does not have access to the alarm.

Vice Chairperson Hampton asked what about entering or leaving?

Lt. Carlin stated during regular business hour, the staff has an electronic key card that are controlled with time constraints, so that they just operate during regular business hours and supervisor cards are activated 24-hours a day.

Vice Chairperson Hampton asked are those things that are subject to disposal, cases that have been closed and not subject to appeal?

Comm. Blackwell, II asked what was the last number that was established relative to the money that when you count it was it the exact same number or was it less, was it more, what did you find?

Lt. Carlin asked do you want to know what our count is currently?

Comm. Blackwell, II stated no, I want to know that, obviously, when the money was counted someone had to leave a number somewhere of what they thought was in the envelope, it had to be counted at some point. He asked is that number more, less or the same?

Lt. Carlin stated when the Public Corruption Unit conducted their audit of our

vault and they counted over 3,000 tags. Of the 3,000 tags, they weren't able to give an immediate resolution for about 300 of them. Of those 300 my staff has done the research on paper tags and we have resolved over 204 of them. The other ones, while they haven't been resolved, appear to be all from the early 90's prior to the date of conversion from the old system to the new system.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked is it possible that about 100 or so, have not been accounted for yet?

Lt. Carlin stated less than 100 and less than \$80,000.00.

Comm. Blackwell asked from the time that you went in to do an audit from the last record that was kept, everything has just about been reconciled, except for around \$80,000 and just 100 under tags?

Lt. Carlin stated that is correct and over 80,000 tags have come in through the 1980's.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked as it relates to the cocaine that was stolen from the property room, is there an ongoing investigation or is that case just about being concluded?

Lt. Carlin stated I know that an arrest was made and the person is currently incarcerated and awaiting trial.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked is it just one individual?

Lt. Carlin stated yes, the individual was actually an employee of the Property Control Room that I am aware of.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked how about how it relates to the money unit, was there any particular finding of criminality of any individual at this point?

Lt. Carlin stated that is correct.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked in regards to the 7 million dollars of cocaine missing, was only one person charged and incarcerated?

Lt. Carlin stated I think there were other people in charge, but there was only one member of the Property Control Unit and he is currently incarcerated and awaiting trial.

Comm. Norris stated my memory is that some of the people were outside of the Department, they were involved in the scheme, but not members of the Department.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked so in the Department, there was only one person?

Lt. Carlin stated to my knowledge, that's correct and that was before all of the security precautions.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked do you know if there were any actions handed out?

Lt. Carlin stated yes, he has been terminated.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated not this guy. He asked has anybody else been terminated?

Lt. Carlin stated there have been other people and there was somebody who was been suspended, but I don't think it was related to this case. Someone from the Disciplinary Administration Unit might have more information on that.

Comm. Ramirez asked at this point do we have a tracking system that shows that when we dispose of a firearm we could enter the information into the computer so that we know were the firearm is going and that it is going to be destroyed?

Lt. Carlin stated there are several different statuses of a piece of evidence property would have, such as, live evidence, available for disposal, it could be in transit or it could be issued. If it is available for disposal those are the items that we are allowed to destroy. Once the holds have been released from the officer in charge of the case, it is then ready for disposal. Now, if it was taken in violation of a state law or licensing regulation you would have to take it to the State Police in Lansing, that is the state law. If it wasn't taken under those circumstances, but possibly confiscated from a home, where nobody could prove ownership of gthe gun or it was taken in a narcotics raid, but not directly from aperson, those guns could be destroyed much cheaper. With the cooperation of Rouge Steel we have been able to burn a lot of guns at that location. We have burned about 15,000 guns since the beginning of the year.

Chairperson Norris commended Lt. Carlin on doing such a terrific job and a great master plan.

Lt. Carlin stated thank you.

7. REQUEST COMMISSION AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GRANT

The **Detroit Police Department's Seventh Precinct** wishes to accept a **Traffic Enforcement Equipment Grant**, in the amount of \$4,995.00. This grant will allow the Seventh Precinct to participate in a Law Enforcement Challenge sponsored by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (M.O.H.S.P.). The

grant program was designed to help step up their safety belt and drunk driving efforts. There is no cash match.

MOTION: Commissioner Norris made the motion to approve the

Grant.

SECOND: Commissioner Hampton seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Norris stated she would like to welcome DC Turnbull back.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked the Chief if he could give a brief overview of the issues that have been appearing in the newspaper or would you like for me to ask you some questions?

Chief Oliver stated I rather you ask the questions.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated part of our responsibilities as Police Commissioners in addition to setting policy is also dealing with disciplinary issues, budgetary issues and etc. He asked the individuals who are in your position, deputy chiefs and assistant chiefs, are those positions appointed by you or by the Mayor?

Chief Oliver stated the Mayor appoints them.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked are those positions also unappointed, removed by the Mayor or do you remove them?

Chief Oliver stated as far as I know, only the Mayor could unappoint/disappoint individuals within the Detroit Police Department.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked in the event that you wanted to dismiss an individual, would a letter from you be sufficient?

Chief Oliver stated no, it would not.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked a letter for any unappointment, disappointment or removal from that particular appointed position would then have to come from the Mayor?

Chief Oliver stated yes.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked so all of the assistant chiefs and deputy chiefs that

you set up a process that had to be in conjunction with what the Mayor concurred with, because at the end of the recommendations that you made to the mayor, he had to concur with those recommendations.

Chief Oliver stated yes, he had to concur.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked does the authority lie with the Mayor?

Chief Oliver stated essentially yes.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked is your appointment controlled by the Mayor?

Chief Oliver stated yes.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked as I recall didn't the other members have to come before the Board of Police Commissioners for their promotions?

Chief Oliver stated yes.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked is an at-will appointment subject to cause? Is there an explanation that has to be given to you or the Board in order to remove an individual in the rank of deputy chief or assistant chief?

Chief Oliver stated no, the explanation is not mandated.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated the Police Commission needs to be clear what our role is as it relates to your men and women that serve in those particular capacities so that every time you make a decision or not make a decision that we get involved. He asked for instances, all suspensions without pay come to this Commission and suspensions with pay do not come to this Commission, is that correct?

Chief Oliver stated that is correct.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked does the new Manual take affect next week?

Chief Oliver stated not until May 24th.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked does Internal Affairs involve the investigation of public officials such as the Mayor, City Council, City Clerk or etc.?

Chief Oliver stated it involves the investigation of police officers and other City employees. I believe it is inappropriate and unethical in some ways because of the lack of objectivity and the fact that you would not have an objective line by Internal Affairs of the Police Department investigating the boss or the Mayor of

the City. No one is going to believe that that is going to be an objective investigation. Therefore, any investigations going up, looking at people who have oversight, looking at individuals or allegations made against individuals who are in senior positions in the administration, we could accept the information and we can document the information. If an investigation was going to concur, it would occur in conjunction with, in partnership with, or independently. Internal Affairs could order that an object look would have been done. Even though, we have the obligation to take the compliant, I think the propriety dictates that the complaint would be on behalf of citizens and everyone else to make sure that you have a fair shake in the investigation, and that the investigation is done with an independent body.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked when an investigation rises to the level of an official outside of the Police Department, does that require your knowledge or does it not require your knowledge?

Chief Oliver stated all investigations should be discussed with the Chief of Police, to make sure that the information was properly handled.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked as part of the oath, every officer is sworn to report anything that they believe is criminal in nature?

Chief Oliver stated yes.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated as an officer, you have an obligation not to suppress that kind of information?

Chief Oliver stated yes, I believe that is true.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked if it hasn't been determined or a judgement hasn't been made, can Internal Affairs or any unit decide to gather information without some standard being established?

I think that as we talk about our Manual taking affect on May 25th,The Board of Police Commissioners may need to look at policy as it relates to this issue. He asked does an unappointment of a deputy chief or assistant chief bar you from the police department?

Chief Oliver stated not necessarily.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked does the person have reversionary rights?

Chief Oliver stated I am assuming they do.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked could someone that is a deputy chief revert back to a lieutenant position if they are unappointed?

Chief Oliver stated if they choose to do so, they could go back to the lieutenant level, if that is correct.

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated yes that is correct. A person who is unappointed may revert back to their last civil service title that was held. After the rank of lieutenant, the officers are appointees. He would potentially have the rights to revert back to the rank of lieutenant.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked when we hear the word fire, that is not really accurate. All the Mayor could do is either appoint or take the appointment away? He also asked is the word fire different from the word appoint?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated it depends on a particular situation, there are circumstances under which an appointee may be terminated from the department as a whole. I don't know if it does or do not exist.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked is there a way that would be stated in a letter or in a memorandum?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated there is a way, the Mayor could choose to or not choose to, it may depend on his own wishes. For example, if I found that you did something criminally wrong, I could terminate you from the police department and you would not have revision rights.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked when you say if you find something someone did, would that have to be a matter of fact, proven or even alleged?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated yes.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked in absence of those, I think clearly somebody is relieved of an appointed position, even in the civil service section. If they have civil service status they are able to bump back down, they don't lose their civil service, except for wrongdoing, misconduct and etc.

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated potentially yes.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked do you feel that in this current environment that what was done was appropriate? Did you understand that the Mayor had the ability to fire people that you brought in or recommended?

Chief Oliver stated yes.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked the Chief if he could address how he feels about the officer's name being released?

Chief Oliver stated I never released anyone's name. The documents that have been released have been released by either former DC Gary Brown or other individuals. I think that it is unfortunate that the officers' name is out there. This investigation is a personnel and supervisory management issue.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked what is your opinion on how we should handle this in the future and where should this go right now?

Chief Oliver stated what should have happened is what happening now. At this time we are in conversation with the State Police, U.S. Atty. Jeffrey Collins office, City Council has Resolution to have DOJ investigate this.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked does the Board need to amend and then adopt the new Manual, so that there is no gray lines?

Chief Oliver stated I don't think that we could write a policy that would negate judgement or lack of judgement, I think it is certainly worth reviewing.

Chairperson Norris stated I want to thank Comm. Blackwell, II for framing the issues so clearly. The Commission meets once a week and we are not allowed to meet when we are not meeting, so we have not spoken about any of this in the last six days, these are my comments.

I am a basketball fan, so I am going to go with the Joe Dumars analogy for a minute on one of my issue. Basketball teams play best when the coach is allowed to coach the players that the coach has and the way that the coach deems is appropriate and is not required to give playing time to multi-million dollar players, who are no good because they were hired by the guy above. When the guy above micro-manages the coaching of the team, the coach quickly becomes ineffective and the team loses. I don't know if that has happened here, but I am not rendering an opinion saying that it has.

I think there is certainly an appearance of that and a concern that that has happened and I am concerned about he Chief's ability to command the respect and the authority that he needs to command to run a department effectively if officers under the Chief know that their allegiance should not need be to the Chief. When the mayor holds the authority to terminate somebody without talking to the Chief about it when the Mayor appears to have done that. I am very concerned about that.

I am concerned about a perception that this is not a one time decision and I don't really want to get into the merits of the specific decision because don't have any knowledge that would inform me enough to have an opinion about that at all. Generally, this Commission does not get into specific personnel issues in that way. This Mayor has had the privilege of appointing more Commissioners in this office then most mayors because he has asked for resignations for some

Commissioners and got some. By Charter the Mayor would have to be in office for a longer time to have three Commissioners.

I have personally felt the influence of the Mayor in how this Commission does its work and felt some pressure to do some things that the Mayor felt were important that wouldn't necessarily what I would have done. To the point that it now seems like there is an appearance that the Mayor will be handpicking the folks that will be doing the oversight of this Department. I think we need to be very careful about that. I am also concerned that as Chairperson of this Commission has had absolutely no communication with anybody from the Mayor's office about any of this. Comm. Blackwell, II is absolutely right that legally the Mayor does not need to give any reason for this action as long it is not an unlawful reason and there have been allegations that there may have been an unlawful reason.

I think we as a Commission have to figure out what our role is. I think we have some hard work before us, not on this specific staffing issue, but what it means in the broader picture for what our role is, what a Chief's role is, what a Mayor's role is and how an independent body can be independent as we are suppose to be and how an Internal Affairs group can investigate the Department. It could have the privilege of investigating its own officers, sort of speak, independently and how all of that can be appropriately done. I don't think that we have a good handle on that right now and I think that if we don't we as a Commission and a Department, and as a City are going to lose credibility. I think that would be unfortunate for everyone that is concerned.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated Kareem Abdul Jabar and Shaquille Oneal was traded by the General Manager, they were let go. Once they get on the bench, then the Coach coaches them, whether or not if they stay. It is the guy above that brings them in and gets rid of them, that's the difference.

Comm. Ramirez stated it is obvious that the citizens of the city of Detroit know that something needs to be done and it being an independent body such as the State or the Prosecutor. I think something definitely needs to be investigated. I hope that the Commissioners would support an investigation of that sort. I think the Commissioner's should think very highly and recommend an independent body or person to investigate.

Chairperson Norris stated I agree that is appropriate, but as well, I think it is important that the folks being investigated be opened to that, which I believe that they are and it is my understanding that they are. It also needs to be someone in whom the public has confidence that it is not a preordained investigation.

Vice Chairperson Hampton stated I would certainly concur. I don't have enough about the merits. It is just unfortunate that the resources and the time spent reacting could be spent in a more positive way, like the Chief trying to raise this standard. I would just hope and suggest that we don't take our eyes of the

prize and keep moving forward. What take years to build could be destroyed overnight and let's not make that happen and if it's broke let's fix it. I read somewhere that the righteous shall prevail and I am sure that the right will prevail here.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Henry Dudzinski asked Lt. Carlin what happened to the weapon that Lamar Grable allegedly used against Eugene Brown, because it has never been produced and shown to the Grable family?

Lt. Carlin stated I don't have any information regarding that case, I am not the officer in charge of that case. Whoever is in charge of that case would have the information that you have requested.

Mr. Dudzinski stated I am here to talk about a complaint I filed with OCI in 2002. I appeared before this body, which recommended an individual who is a supervisory investigator with OCI.

Chairperson Norris stated am I correct in saying that an independent investigator has been retained to look into your complaint at OCI.

Mr. Dudzinski stated yes, you are correct. However, when I finally proved that OCI had compromised their investigation they in turn recuse themselves.

Chairperson Norris stated that is not what has happened at all. What has happened is that you have made an accusation against us (OCI). We have done exactly what we have been talking about in the other situation. We have said that you have said that you don't trust us, which is your right, we will get somebody outside to look into it for you and we have done that at the City's expense, which is no small expense to hire an outside attorney.

Mr. Dudzinski stated the attorney is doing for the Board of Police Commissioners office, not for me. He also stated that this investigator, who was retained by the City, was supposed to be independent.

Chairperson Norris stated that's right.

Mr. Dudzinski stated during the interview at the Wayne Law Library, when I mentioned certain people in the corporation counsel's office, he said I knew Corporation Counsel herself and three other people. He asked how could he be objective?

Chairperson Norris stated because he is one of the better-respected lawyers in the city of Detroit and he knows virtually every lawyer in the city of Detroit.

Reggie Crawford stated he is a 25-year veteran with the Detroit Police Department. It is quite disturbing to see the confidential informant's name expose in the media, who happened to be a Detroit police officer. I have asked the union to step up and defend this officer. If an officer has knowledge of someone engaging in a criminal act, go to the Justice Department because the individual that is responsible in the administration will not protect you. We are going to protect ourselves by an means necessary. What kind of message does this send to the community when you encourage them to bring forth information, when what was convened yesterday that you won't stand up and protect your own. It makes us become suspect when we don't hear from the Department to encourage officers to come forward with information.

Chairperson Norris stated all of us agree that having an officer's name revealed is a tremendous and chilling effect.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked when you said that you will protect yourself by any means necessary, are you saying that citizens should take the same posture?

PO Crawford stated yes, in terms of information.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated we don't know how the information got out, we should find how it the information got out...

PO Crawford stated that is our intent too, sir.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated if the information got out by the individual that got dismissed that could be possible. The issue is right now I know that you are going to continue to do your job as a police officer and protect and serve the people that are in here.

PO Crawford stated that is an oath that we took and it is even beyond that because I am from this community and of this community.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated exactly. All I am saying is in light of this whole thing we are pledging to get to the bottom of it just like you are and if we all do that together and continue to do our jobs, I think we could get pass this.

Tony asked what oath do you take in regards to government?

Comm. Blackwell, II stated to uphold the Charter and the Constitution.

Tony stated the Constitution.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated and the Charter.

Tony stated that the Constitution is a supreme law of the land and any law contrary to the Constitution is null and void.

Comm. Blackwell, II asked who said it was contrary to?

Tony stated the Supreme Court.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated in support of.

Tony stated those who tell the truth should be supported and those that are in deceit are working on behalf of the devil. Our Constitution was written on behalf of the 10 commandments of the Bible. Stick to it.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated when the Constitution left out African Americans and women out as well.

Tony stated it has always been the minorities that fought for the freedom that we have.

Comm. Blackwell, II stated in the original Constitution, black people was left out.

Bernice Smith stated that the morale of the police department is very low and I hope that something is done uplift the morale of the police department by doing the right thing. She asked the Chief if the 13th Precinct could have special observants around the building, where she works at because young children keep breaking out everyone's glass in their cars.

Chairperson Norris stated she will talk to the Chief to talk to the 13th Precinct about the issue.

Mr. Craccioholo stated this situation that is happening now, is not new to the police department. I can remember when Mayor Edwards' administration was charged with corruption. There was a report who was suppose to meet me, but he had an interview with an undercover person earlier that day at the Old Detroiter Motel and he was murdered there on the spot.

Chairperson Norris stated as I understand and I am just learning all of this. Even thought the Department of Justice is here, they have carte blanche to look at everything, there are limits to their jurisdiction. It is not clear whether allegations like this would fall within that jurisdiction or not. I know that wiser minds than mine are looking at that. I think that one of the problems are it is not obvious exactly what organization has the authority and the ability to do that type of thing.

Mr. Craccioholo asked who would have the decision as to who will be the investigative body?

Chairperson Norris stated I think that we are hoping that it is somebody that everyone can agree is going to be independent and that it is not...

Mr. Craccioholo asked who makes the decision?

Chairperson Norris asked Chief is that your decision?

Chief Oliver stated no, it is not. I think what we are doing are consulting with the U.S. Attorney's office and the State Police to determine who that person would be.

Mr. Craccioholo stated having the Department of Justice was our (the Coalition Against Police Brutality) initiative and since then everyone (City Council, the Mayor and the Chief of Police) has jumped on the bandwagon saying that was their initiative, which is untrue.

Chairperson Norris stated we will make sure that you will get the credit.

Mr. Craccioholio stated we don't want the credit, we just want the truth to go where it stands correct.

Rita Ross stated she lives in the 10th Precinct are and she does agree that the morale within the police force is very low. We as residents have been trying to assist the police force in handling some of the issues that have been difficult because of budget cuts. We have tried to establish CB patrols because it was very successful in the Halloween episode. There have been high of number of children death in the community. She asked the Chief if he could give the residents some assistance, so that they could help the 10th Precinct to protect the children and put an end to drug activity in the community.

Chief Oliver asked what are you specifically attributing to low morale in the police department? What have you heard about the morale?

Ms. Ross stated it's not what I heard about it, it is what I have actually experienced about it. Most cases a lot of help is giving to the police that are officers through the community and the activity that happens. I attribute the constant changing of commanders within the precinct within the last few months.

Chief Oliver stated I think morale is associate with the following is: sitting in a building, where the elevators don't work and; if you are here at night, you may get attacked by rodents. I think morale has something to do with precinct stations that have been here for many years and are falling apart. I think morale has something to do with police officers, who don't have the equipment on the street that they need, they don't prep radios, they don't have computers in their vehicles and sometimes they don't have vehicles that work. I think morale has a

lot to do with the fact that police officers don't get the kind of training that they need and they don't get exposed to other kinds of training that they need. This did not start in February when I arrived here; it has been going on for years. As long as I am here to help morale, I will damnedest to get exactly what these officers need on the street. They need better pay, equipment and training. It is high to have morale when you come to work in a place that you are ashamed of.

Ron Scott stated the community and the police need to work together to build morale in the community and the police department.

Ms. Walters stated what we are spreading in this community is seeds of fear, dissention, separation and finger pointing. Whatever we plant, we will bear the fruit of that seed. We need to start practicing dropping seeds of hope.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 22, 2003 @ 3:00 p.m. Police Headquarters – Rm. 328-A 1300 Beaubien Detroit, Michigan 48226

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS

Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/kdw